

Carlyle, Il.
July 25, 1991

Mr. James T. Dawson
P. O. Box 5511
Meridian, Ms. 39302-5511

Dear Mr. Dawson,

Thank you for the quick response to my recent letter. I am very pleased to learn of your interest in the family information in my possession. I hasten to apologize for not having your name correct and do appreciate you calling it to my attention.

The information which I promised you is enclosed. The charts which appear at the beginning of the information have been prepared by me and included, as they may be of some interest. The narrative which follows is unedited and begins on page one.

Again, thank you for your interest and assistance. I will be pleased to provide any other available information upon request. Best wishes to you and the citizens of Meridian.

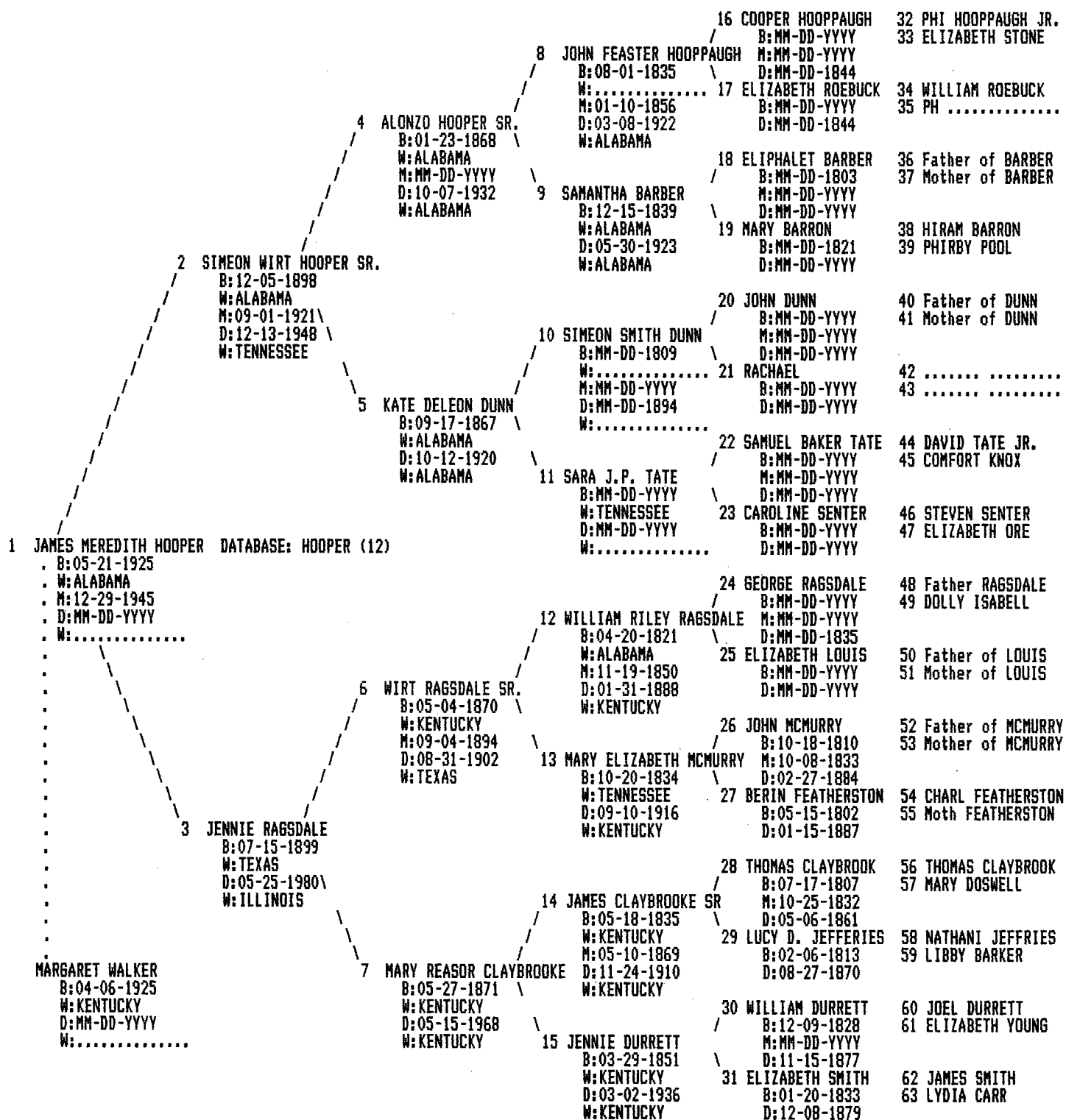
Sincerely,



James M. Hooper
1530 Abbott Street
Carlyle, Il. 62231
phone 618-594-2724

P E D I G R E E O F JAMES MEREDITH HOOPER

THIS IS CHART NUMBER 1 NUMBER 1 ON THIS CHART IS NUMBER 1 ON CHART NUMBER 1



I..	50 M GEORGE	ISABEL	RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-1835
Sp.	51 F ELIZABETH		LOUIS		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 463 F MARTHA		RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 464 M LOUIS	A.	RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 30 M WILLIAM	RILEY	RAGSDALE		04-20-1821	01-31-1888
	.Sp... 31 F MARY	ELIZABETH	McMURRY		10-20-1834	11-19-1850
	..... 196 M WINFIELD	FEATHERSTO	RAGSDALE		05-09-1852	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 197 F MARY	ALICE	RAGSDALE		05-14-1854	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 201 F HELEN		RAGSDALE		04-17-1856	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 203 F FLORENCE		RAGSDALE		10-28-1858	04-25-1932
	.Sp... 202 M WILLIAM	LINDSEY	GRAVES		11-12-1855	11-16-1886
	..... 317 M LINDSEY		RAGSDALE	GRAVES	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 318 M OWEN		McMURRY	GRAVES	12-05-1893	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 319 F ADA		RAGSDALE	GRAVES	07-10-1889	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 208 F ADA		RAGSDALE		08-23-1861	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 204 M WILLIAM	McMURRY	RAGSDALE		12-21-1863	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 205 F CORINNE		TREADWELL		MM-DD-YYYY	04-27-1898
	..... 320 M CHARLES		CLIFTON	RAGSDALE	01-DD-1899	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 321 F EMMA			HALL	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 198 M WALTER	PINCKNEY	RAGSDALE		06-08-1866	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 20 M WIRT	DUDLEY	RAGSDALE SR.		05-04-1870	08-31-1902
	.Sp... 21 F MARY	REASOR	CLAYBROOKE		05-27-1871	09-04-1894
	..... 166 M WIRT	DUDLEY	RAGSDALE JR.		06-25-1895	12-10-1968
	.Sp... 167 F MARY	BURTON	McELROY		06-21-1894	05-14-1918
	..... 170 F INOGENE		RAGSDALE		08-14-1897	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 15 F JENNIE		RAGSDALE		07-15-1899	05-25-1980
	.Sp... 14 M SINEON	WIRT	HOOPER SR.		12-05-1898	09-01-1921
	.Sp... 148 M FRED	DIEHL	SUTHERLAND		MM-DD-1887	09-04-1939
	..... 169 F FLORENCE		RAGSDALE		04-22-1901	03-23-1935
	.Sp... 168 M WILLIAM	IRVIN	FOX SR.		MM-DD-YYYY	12-26-1925
	..... 206 M MARVIN	HERBERT	RAGSDALE		01-27-1873	07-19-1923
	.Sp... 207 F FRANCES	PAULINE	THIGPEN		MM-DD-YYYY	01-02-1898
	..... 322 F MARY	ELIZABETH	RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 323 F HELEN	LYELL	RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 200 M LINDSEY	WILSON	RAGSDALE		12-15-1874	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 199 F LELIA		RAGSDALE		03-11-1878	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 465 M GEORGE	WESLEY	RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-1895
	.Sp... 469 F OCTAVIA	BERRY			10-25-1832	MM-DD-1850
	..... 548 M GEORGE	I.	RAGSDALE SR.		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 549 F BELL		MELTON		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 553 F EFFIE		WEST		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 550 F FANNIE		RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 551 F KALIBEL		RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 552 M JAMES		WRIGHT		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 554 M GEORGE	I.	RAGSDALE JR.		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 555 F BERTHA		RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 556 F EFFIE		RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 557 F MOLLIE		RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 558 M W.	N.	PASS		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 562 M JAMES	K.	LONGSTREET		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 559 F ALNA		PASS		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 560 M S.	W.	CAIN		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 561 M LOUIS		PASS		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 563 F ELLA		RAGSDALE		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 564 M SAMUEL	ADAMS	BERRY		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 565 F RUBY		BERRY		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 566 M DONALD		BAILY		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp... 567 M T.	J.	WALL		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	..... 567 M T.	J.	WALL		MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY

|	|	|.Sp....	565 F RUBY		BERRY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.Sp....	565 F RUBY		BERRY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.Sp....	567 M T.	J.	WALL	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.....	569 F		BERRY	MM-DD-YYYY		MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.Sp....	568 M NORBURN	B.	MYERS	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|.....	573 F	JULIA		RAGSDALE	MM-DD-YYYY		MM-DD-YYYY
|	|.Sp...	574 M	JUDSON		HANSARD	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|.Sp...	578 M	HARRY		JOHNSON	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.....	575 F RIZZEL		HANSARD	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.....	577 F KATHERINE		HANSARD	MM-DD-YYYY		MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.Sp....	576 M LEE		GUEST	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|.....	580 M	WILL		RAGSDALE	MM-DD-YYYY		MM-DD-YYYY
|	|.Sp....	579 F	MOLLIE		WRIGHT	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.....	581 F BESSIE		WRIGHT	MM-DD-YYYY		MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.Sp....	584 M		SEXTON	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.....	582 F MARIE		RAGSDALE	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
|	|	|.....	583 M FREDRICK		RAGSDALE	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY
	585 F	KATE		RAGSDALE	MM-DD-YYYY		MM-DD-YYYY
	.Sp...	586 M	LOUIS		BRANUM	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY	MM-DD-YYYY

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F A M I L Y G R O U P S H E E T 12

Husband's First Name			Middle Name		Last Name	
JAMES			MEREDITH		HOOPER	
Born:	05-21-1925		Place:	ALBERTVILLE	MARSHALL	ALABAMA
Christened:	MM-DD-YYYY		Place:	.....	
Married:	12-29-1945		Place:	SPRINGFIELD	WASHINGTON	KENTUCKY
Died:	MM-DD-YYYY		Place:	.....	
Buried:	MM-DD-YYYY		Place:	.....	
Father:	SIMEON	WIRT	HOOPER SR.	Mother:	JENNIE	RAGSDALE
Other spouses: 1.				2.		

Wife's First Name		Middle Name		Last (maiden) Name			
MARGARET				WALKER			
Born:	04-06-1925	Place:	LINCOLN PARK	WASHINGTON	KENTUCKY		
Christened:	MM-DD-YYYY	Place:	PLEASANT GROVE	WASHINGTON	KENTUCKY		
Died:	MM-DD-YYYY	Place:	.....			
Buried:	MM-DD-YYYY	Place:	.....			
Father:	ALBERT	BROWNING	WALKER JR.	Mother:	MARGARET	CLARA	MORAN
Other spouses: 1.				2.			

[illegible]

Sources:	Other Marriages:	Necessary Explanations:
FAMILY		

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F A M I L Y G R O U P S H E E T 15

Wife's First Name			Middle Name		Last (maiden) Name		
JENNIE					RAGSDALE		
Born:	07-15-1899		Place:	SAN ANTONIO	BEXAR	TEXAS	
Christened:	MM-DD-YYYY		Place:	.....			.....
Married:	09-01-1921		Place:	SPRINGFIELD	WASHINGTON	KENTUCKY	
Died:	05-25-1980		Place:	BREESE	CLINTON	ILLINOIS	
Buried:	05-28-1980		Place:	LEBANON	MARION	KENTUCKY	
Father:	WIRT	DUDLEY	RAGSDALE SR.		Mother:	MARY	REASOR CLAYBROOKE
Other spouses: 1.			FRED	DIEHL	SUTHERLAND	2.	

Husband's First Name			Middle Name		Last Name	
SIMEON			WIRT		HOOPER SR.	
Born:	12-05-1898	Place:	NEW SITE	MARSHALL	ALABAMA	
Christened:	MM-DD-YYYY	Place:	.....		.....
Died:	12-13-1948	Place:	NASHVILLE	DAVIDSON	TENNESSEE	
Buried:	12-15-1948	Place:	ALBERTVILLE	MARSHALL	ALABAMA	
Father:	ALONZO	BARBER	HOOPER SR.	Mother:	KATE	DELEON DUNN
Other spouses: 1.			2.			

Sl	Children	Birthdate	Place of Birth	Married	To Whom	Died			
M	SIMEON	WIRT	06-07-1922	ALBERTVILLE	ALABAMA	09-25-1947	MARY	MAYES	MM-DD-YYYY
M	JAMES	MEREDITH	05-21-1925	ALBERTVILLE	ALABAMA	12-29-1945	MARGARET	WALKER	MM-DD-YYYY

Sources:	Other Marriages:	Necessary Explanations:
FAMILY		

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F A M I L Y G R O U P S H E E T 30

Husband's First Name		Middle Name		Last Name	
WILLIAM		RILEY		RAGSDALE	
Born:	04-20-1821	Place:	GREEN		ALABAMA
Christened:	MM-DD-YYYY	Place:	.....	
Married:	11-19-1850	Place:	CARROLLTON	CAROLL	MISSISSIPPI
Died:	01-31-1888	Place:	LEBANON	MARION	KENTUCKY
Buried:	02-02-1888	Place:	LEBANON	MARION	KENTUCKY
Father:	GEORGE	ISABEL	RAGSDALE	Mother:	ELIZABETH LOUIS
Other spouses: 1.			2.		

Wife's First Name		Middle Name		Last (maiden) Name	
MARY		ELIZABETH		MCMURRY	
Born:	10-20-1834	Place:	GIBSON		TENNESSEE
Christened:	MM-DD-YYYY	Place:	.....	
Died:	09-10-1916	Place:	SIMPSONVILLE	SHELBY	KENTUCKY
Buried:	MM-DD-YYYY	Place:	LEBANON	MARION	KENTUCKY
Father:	JOHN	MCMURRY	Mother:	BERINTHIA MALINDA FEATHERSTON	
Other spouses: 1.			2.		

1st Children		Birthdate	Place of Birth		Married	To Whom		Died
M:	WINFIELD	FEATHERSTO	05-09-1852	DUCK HILL	MISSISSIPPI	MM-DD-YYYY		04-07-1869
F:	MARY	ALICE	05-14-1854	RUSK	TEXAS	MM-DD-YYYY		07-15-1856
F:	HELEN		04-17-1856	RUSK	TEXAS	MM-DD-YYYY		12-05-1863
F:	FLORENCE		10-28-1858	LEXINGTON	MISSISSIPPI	11-16-1886	WILLIAM GRAVES	04-25-1932
F:	ADA		08-23-1861	MACON	MISSISSIPPI	MM-DD-YYYY		04-21-1883
M:	WILLIAM	MCMURRY	12-21-1863	MACON	MISSISSIPPI	04-27-1898	CORINNE TREADWELL	MM-DD-YYYY
M:	WALTER	PINCKNEY	06-08-1866	GRENADA	MISSISSIPPI	MM-DD-YYYY		12-29-1869
M:	WIRT	DUDLEY	05-04-1870	DANVILLE	KENTUCKY	09-04-1894	MARY CLAYBROOKE	08-31-1902
M:	MARVIN	HERBERT	01-27-1873	LEBANON	KENTUCKY	01-02-1898	FRANCES THIGPEN	07-19-1923
M:	LINDSEY	WILSON	12-15-1874	LEBANON	KENTUCKY	MM-DD-YYYY		03-18-1875
F:	LELIA		03-11-1878	LEBANON	KENTUCKY	MM-DD-YYYY		08-07-1878

Sources:	Other Marriages:	Necessary Explanations:
FLORENCE RAGSDLE GRAVE ADA RAGSDALE GRAVES		

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INTRODUCTION

This a brief history of the Ragsdale family with a short biography of William Riley Ragsdale and wife, Mary Elizabeth McMurry Ragsdale. Compiled by their daughter, Florence Ragsdale Graves, Oct.28,1929. Copied by their granddaughter, Ada Ragsdale Graves, Dec.1935, and now placed into print by their great grandson, James Meredith Hooper, Jan.21,1990. The following is a faithful unedited transcription of this record, which remains in my possession as of this date.

RAGSDALE HISTORY by Florence Ragsdale Graves

In getting up the history of our branch of the Ragsdale family, with a history of my grandmother's family included. I will not now be able to trace our ancestry - with the line unbroken - as far back as I would like: and for the reason that I did not early in life avail myself of many opportunities given me to do this when both of my parents were living. Had I done so then, I would not now, have to be making a search for a record of dates, and history, of our ancestors from others. That there may be no regrets with the present and future generations of this branch of the Ragsdale family, I do wish now, to make, as clear as I can a "Record Complete" for them. I must however trust to memory for many of the incidents I make a record of in the history as here compiled; both as to all that which was related to me by my parents, and later, of the happenings which I personally knew, and which I trust, may be of interest now to those who read these pages. I will give seperately, and on the opposite pages of this book, a full and complete record of births, marriages, and deaths, of our families as are recorded in our maternal grandmother's family Bible, and in the family Bible that belonged to my parents.

Also the dates, as I have been able to collect them from the present generations of our families which are so scattered. Each generation, in turn, should add their own family records to this, and so keep the geneology line unbroken.

The original stock of the Ragsdale families in this country - so told to me by my father - date back to the time of the early settlement of this country, and which was during the reign of James I, King of England - our ancestors were classed as "religious fanatics" and so possibly suffered persecution at that time. While we of our own family, have no written record of service, as rendered to our country, by any of the descendants of any of the Ragsdale families during the Revolutionary War, yet some of our relatives have; but, so far, we have not been able to get in touch with any of those who have those papers.

There was an ugly feeling entertained by some of the english settlers living in this country, towards those who wished to be free from english rule; and, the two Ragsdale brothers

who left their home in Wales - these brothers were of the welch descent - to come to America to make their future home were among this number. They also wanted liberty in worship. The father of these two Ragsdale brothers belonged to the Nobility and was known as "Lord Ragsdale"; and being the man he was he wanted his two sons to remain loyal to the Mother country - England - and to the "Church of England" or "The Established Church" as it was later called by it's Episcopal adherents. If these two Ragsdale brothers were among the "Separatists" they must have come over to this country about the time of the historically known "Mayflower", or perhaps, a few years later, for at that time also were there persecutions just as bitter.

From these two Ragsdale brothers have all the different families of the Ragsdale sprung that are in the United States of America; and these are too numerous to ever try to count.

To go back to our branch of the Ragsdale family - as far back as I have been able accurately to trace - we find our grandfather, George Isabel Ragsdale and grandmother Elizabeth Louis Ragsdale - known as "Betsy" Louis Ragsdale - located in Green County, Alabama, where our great grandfather reared his family of boys and girls in the english style of that period, in dress, custom, and manners; although, Alabama was not admitted as a State until 1819 - though it was first settled in 1711. Our grandparents had a family of four children which lived to raise families of their own - their names were Martha, Louis A., William R. and George W. who also had families of their own.

A brother of our grandfather Ragsdale whose given name was Buckman, was a member of grandfather's family until he married and moved to southern Kentucky to live - Logan County. "Uncle BUck" was an old bachelor at the time of his marriage. He was a frequent visitor in my father's home: for his nephew "William" was a great favorit with him - he liked my mother also. Uncle Buck was a quaint character who kept his hearers entertained by the hour by his narratives and quaint sayings.

Our grandfather Ragsdale died while his children were of a youthful age, and in Green County, Alabama about the year 1835. It was in Alabama, our grandmother raised her children to maturity. The responsibility, care and education of these four children of grandmother's fell on her shoulders; as also did the management of the estate which was left to her and the children.

Grandmother Elizabeth Louis Ragsdale - not as Lewis as is common. Her ancestry dates back to the Huguenots who fled from France in 1685 while Louis XIV was King of France, and who was most cruel in his treatment of all who were catholics. Uncle Louis A. Ragsdale was given his mother's family name, "Louis" for his given name, as his ancestors

were people of rank. Uncle Louis was a help to his mother in the care of his two younger brothers, William Riley and George Wesley, although, he was only about 16 years of age at the time of his father's death.

Grandfather Ragsdale left his widow and children well provided for in "houses and lands", and with servants to do her bidding. The income from this source, added to our grandmother's individual means, enabled her to amply provide for her children and her household in every way - grandmother was capable. A certain portion of this land that our grandfather Ragsdale left his widow and children, was in later years, bought up by Uncle Louis A. Ragsdale as an investment for certain undertakings which seem to promise big things in return. These heirs - grandmother and her children - also held deeds to properties at Gainsville, Sumter County, Alabama, and at Balliton, Green County, Alabama - the name Balliton has been changed. Also held the deeds to property in Aberdeen, Mississippi as well as deeds to large tracts of land in both Alabama and Mississippi. I have in my possession a contract drawn up and signed by my grandmother Ragsdale, in which she obligates herself to pay over to my father, William Riley Ragsdale, the sum of two thousand and five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) as his portion in sales and rents of certain properties they owned in the town of Gainsville, Sumter County, Alabama.

Uncle Louis A. Ragsdale also bought in 1851 a tract of a few acres of land belonging to Daniel W. Ragsdale and his wife, Nancy H. Ragsdale - these two were relatives of ours but do not know how. This land lay near the "City of Ragsdale" - this name has been changed in recent years - and the "City of Meridian, Mississippi". On the land which had been previously bought by Uncle Louis A. Ragsdale from his mother, sisters and two brothers the town of Meridian, Mississippi stands and in recent years it has grown to be a City of considerable size - 25,000 as it is a railroad center of importance and an industrial town. This tract of land on which a part of the town of Meridian stands was at one time heavily timbered with trees of value; and there Uncle Louis disposed of at good prices, after he had had this land cleared up and laid off into town lots which he had had advertised for sale on a certain day. In order to have a ready sale for these town lots he had a railroad, 30 miles in length, built out to tap the main line. This "main line", was at that time, the only railroad running through the length of the State of Mississippi - railroads were not common in those days; and a train was such an unusual attraction that crowds would be drawn to this lot sale.

Uncle Louis was a marvel of success in the financial world; even though he met with failures earlier in life. He made his home with his parents much of the time before his marriage to Miss Sallie McElroy who (her people were from Ky.) came from Kentucky.

My father, William Riley Ragsdale after his college graduation, read medicine under Dr. Benjamin W. Dudley of Lexington, Kentucky - he was my father's preceptor 2 years. Dr. Dudley was a surgeon of note, and was one of the professors in Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky.

My father was a medical student at Transylvania University, and attended the lectures given - see one of the lecture cards enclosed. This was in the sessions of 1845-1846 & 1846-1847 inclusive. From there he went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to enter the Jefferson Medical College where he graduated with honors and credit to himself in the spring of 1849.

It was in Carrollton, Carroll Co., Mississippi where my father first located to practice his chosen profession as a doctor of medicine. It was there he met my mother Mary Elizabeth McMurry, the eldest daughter of John and Berinthia McMurry. My father won her heart and hand and they were married in November 1850 in the parlors of the home of her parents in Carrollton, Mississippi.

My mother was just a month past her sixteenth birthday at the time of her marriage to my father. He was 29 years old. A part of my mother's education was received at a boarding school in Grenada, Mississippi, (the town of Grenada was in that part of Yalobusha County which has since then been named Grenada County - thus making the two counties). My mother was sent to this select boarding school at the age of twelve years, and each succeeding year was returned to this same school until the year of her marriage to my father in 1850. It was at this same school that my mother's intimate school girl friend and classmate Maria Octavia Berry made a pledge together that they were to marry brothers, if, it were possible to do so.

Fate helped them, for soon after my mother's marriage to my father, Maria Octavia Berry married my father's brother George Wesley Ragsdale and so they became sisters-in-law. In about a year after the marriage of my father and mother they moved from Carrollton, Mississippi, to Duck Hill, Miss. as there was just at that time an exceptional opening for the practice of medicine, and he was persuaded to go there. At Duck Hill in 1852 my oldest brother, Winfield Featherston Ragsdale was born. (I am under the impression that this old town of Duck Hill was in that part Carroll County which has since been changed to Montgomery County - changing maps, sometimes, creates a confusion in the records of our history of events.)

My father bought a tract of land at Duck Hill, but did not realize the returns he expected - whether he ever sold this tract of land, or not, we do not know, but it seems it was disposed of. Later, my father sold off all his effects at Duck Hill and moved to the State of Texas with a few

families, who like himself, had caught the "Texas fever" - the pioneer urge led many out to Texas. It was somewhere in 1853 or 1854, that my father with his little family rushed off to the State of Texas to try their fortune there.

Texas at that time was an open country, more or less and the prospect of growing up with this country was very alluring. It was at the town of Rusk, Cherokee Co., Texas that my father located for the practice of medicine which opened up favorable. He soon had a large and growing practice and, often, had many long and tiresome drives in the country visiting his patients there; and which, would as often, leave him somewhat exhausted.

My mother had her joys and her sorrows in Texas, but her sorrows outweighed her joys, for she was not only far from all of her people, but it was in Texas that she buried her little Mary Alice who was born at Rusk, Texas, May 14, 1854 and died of flux July 15, 1856 at Rusk, Texas, - age two years & two months. My sister Helen was born at Rusk, Texas, April 17, 1856 and was just three months old when little Alice was called away. In a measure, Baby Helen took little Mary Alice's place. Later, at the urgent request of some of the mothers in the town of Rusk my mother taught a private school in her home.

Tom Ockeltree (I am not sure of the spelling of his name) was one of my mother's pupils in this private school at Rusk, Texas. He was a red headed mischievous boy who kept the rest of the pupils scared out of their wits, half the time, though, he was a kind hearted boy and ready to respond to any appeal for help. This same Tom Ockeltree some years ago was elected Governor for the State of Texas - as to his record as Governor I do not know.

After one of those long drives of my father's to see one of his patients, he got caught, on his return trip, in one of those "Northers" that sweep down into the plains from the mountain side, turning a summer's day into a day of winter, in a hour's time; and woe be to those caught out, for those "Texas Northers" will freeze one to death, if, they do not go prepared for all such occasions as this; for these "Northers" come without any warning of it's approach. But for the good "horse sense" of the horse my father was then driving, he never would have reached his home alive. Even as it was, my father had become so benumbed from the cold, that he had to let go the buggy lines, for he could no longer hold them with his fingers stiff from the cold. After the horse had safely brought my father home, he then, had to be helped out of the buggy, be put to bed and worked with for some hours before there was a reaction sufficient to encourage those present to have any hope of his recovery. Infamatory rheumatism set up and for many weeks my father was quite ill, and his life hung in the balance.

It was this stage of my parents trials in Texas which

decided them to return their home in Mississippi and so in a few days after this decision my mother wrote to Uncle Louis A. Ragsdale to come after them and take them home, for my father was not able to make the trip unaided, as he was the on crutches. The long delay in getting word to Uncle Louis - mail facilities were very poor in those days - and the long and slow trip which in those days were made by stage coach, made it take some few weeks before Uncle Louis could arrive at Rusk, Texas; and so by the time he got there, my father was well enough to lay aside his crutches and look after his interests unaided.

It was my mother and her two little children, Winfield and Helen who returned "Home" with Uncle Louis - this was in 1857. My father stayed in Texas to settle up all his business affairs, and then he would follow his family, who had gone to her mother's home to stay until he had decided just where he would locate. It seems, from deeds of tracts of land we hold, which was at the time my parents lived in Texas, bought up by each one seperately that we ought to be able to recover this property, or, get some equivalent; but we are told that the tax titles in Texas, holds. The tract of land bought and owned by my mother was near to, and joining the town of Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas, and, contained thirty five acres - the price paid for this land was \$175.00.

In 1856 my father also bought a tract of land containing eleven and a half acres near Rusk - known as Block No. 16 - from one Cicero Broom and his wife, for the small sum of \$87.38. These two tracts of land were never sold by either of my parents; and so after the seventy three years that have passed since this land was purchased lawfully and legally we ask, whose is it?

After my father left Texas, he then located at Lexington, Holms Co., Mississippi, and this is the town where I was born. Oct. 28, 1858, was the day on which I was born, and I am on this day, in October 28, 1929, seventy one years old, and in frail body.

My father had a drugstore of his own at Lexington, but kept up with his practice of medicine just as he always had done. It seems, that my father was not satisfied at Lexington, and so his next move was to Macon, Noxube County, Mississippi. It is at Macon, we find our parents during the Civil War of the North and South of our United States of America, and which lasted four years from 1861 - 1865 and was called by many of our southern people "The Lost Cause" of the South - and it was.

It was here at Macon that my sister Ada and brother William McMurry were born and my sister Helen died - she was 8 years old. Since I was born "before the war", I have some few recollections of some of the happenings during the time of the Civil War, and so I will relate some of these, as they

might be of interest to those who read these pages of the history of our families.

During the Civil War my father was often the surgeon for our Confederate soldiers within the lines only, so he was one of the local practicing physicians of the town of Macon and all of the surrounding country and was needed at home - his exemption papers were found among his effects after his death. Hospitals were badly needed, as there were no hospitals, in or near Macon - hospitals were not common in those days - so some of the churches in Macon were converted into temporary hospitals for the care and treatment of our wounded soldiers of the Southern Confederacy - our southern women were nurses. Drugs were badly needed also, and in order to obtain these, my father had to often "Run the blockade" - a risk to run indeed. The people in Macon, as well as elsewhere in the south were in distressing want, not only for drugs of all kinds, but for food and the necessary clothing and general supplies needed.

At one time during the latter years of the War my father went to New Orleans with a wagon and team of mules, with the two negro drivers, to buy some sugar and other needed supplies as well and he had to get a "permit" in order to do this as no one was allowed to pass through the lines without one. At New Orleans my father bought the sugar and other supplies and needed medicine, and returned home without any mishap; though the trip was a very risky one in those times.-To his neighbors he sent the word that he had some sugar, and would let them each have a small quantity. Sugar was an item of luxury at that time; even though almost in the section of country where the sugar cane grew.

At another time when my father had to go to Jackson, Mississippi on a business trip of his own, he was asked by the sheriff of Noxube County, Mississippi - Macon was the county-seat of Noxube County - to take the thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.) of tax money which he had collected and pay it over the State Treasurer at Jackson, Mississippi for him. This money the sheriff had collected was not the "confederate currency" which was used during the war of the rebellion; indeed the Government would not accept it, for such "paper" was not, by the "Union", considered as good money. The sheriff was afraid that he would be robbed and perhaps murdered, if he took this tax money to Jackson, as it was too well known that he had collected the large amount he had; for those were days of terror to every one and no one felt safe in venturing any where or to stay at home either. My father consented to take this tax money for the sheriff; and so for this purpose he had my mother make him a chamois belt with pockets all the way around it to section it off. This belt he wore under all his clothing on this occasion. I have this belt, and have kept it as one of the relics of the Civil War; and will say that it is in perfect condition yet. To say that the men in the office at the Capital at Jackson, Miss. were astonished when my father

stepped in with this tax money is putting it mild, for they were more than astonished, they were dumfounded when he handed this belt to the State Treasurer and took a receipt. When speech did come to these men, they were loud in their praise of his bravery in undertaking a thing so clearly fraught with danger in those days of peril and bloodshed. My father thanked the men for all they said and took his leave. He returned to his home in Macon in safety, for he had a praying wife and mother at home; and he also knew the value of prayer to his God who could protect him from all harm.- Some of the counties in the State of Mississippi never came in with their tax assessments during the War of the Rebellion, for they neither had the money, or, the inclination to pay taxes.

Since it was always such a risk to run the blockade, our southern people had to resort to many ways and means to gain a livelihood - not only for themselves and families, but for the negro slaves as well, for all, had to be cared for. Home spun clothing for the men and the weaving of a cloth called linsey, for the women and children, kept the women both white and black - long at the looms weaving the different clothes needed to make up into garments for them all.- I remember very distinctly the two dresses each - every day dresses - that my sister Helen and I wore which were blue and white and were woven on the looms during the war times of 1861 - 1865. Every one, in the entire South, had to wear home woven clothes, for the supply of store goods had been exhausted and no way to replenish the stock, for the "Yankees" refused to sell us any; but on the contrary, took away all they could get hold of.

There was no opium to be had at any price during the three last years of the Civil War for our wounded Confederate soldiers, and so my father planted or sowed some two or three acres of poppy seed and, in order that he might make opium from the poppy pods after the pedals had fallen off and the pods were yet in their green stage. I saw these poppy beds while they were in full bloom, with all their brilliant colors in pink, white and red; and little child as I was, this is a picture in my memory to stay. My father cut these pods from their stems - or rather he had it done under his directions - and threw them into large caldrons containing a sufficient amount of water to boil these pods down to a pulp: he then had this pulp spread out on blankets to dry; and when dry, to be "pounded" with pestle and mortar by the small quantity at a time - until it is reduced to a powder form and could be made up into pills for the sick. This work of "pounding" with "pestle and mortar" was done by hand and the doctors in those days always "pounded" their own medicines and made their own "pills" with molasses and flour mixed. A pill-plate and a spatular, a tiny pair of scales with weights which vary in size from pin head to a dime, completed the "pill" outfit. Mr. Henry Ford has this outfit of my father's in his "Wayside Inn" in Massachusetts and with one of my father's cards. Yes, I was glad to let

him have them, even though the consideration was not above the actual value of these at the time (1849) of their purchase - for there they would always be preserved as antiques or relics.

I have not forgotten how our soldiers looked when they came to our home by permission of those in authority, to get some medicines or some other needed things - they were tenting near the town of Macon and they came quite often. A yankee soldier too, came one time to our house and asked if he could exchange some coffee for some milk. My mother accomodated this yankee soldier for two good reasons; one was, that she wanted that coffee and the other reason was that she was afraid to have this "yankee" around. That coffee kept my father and mother awake all that night, for they had not had any coffee for many, many, many months. A substitute for coffee in those times was made of roasted grains, and dried and browned sweet potatoes, but it was not "coffee".

After the Civil War we find my father restless and on the move again. To Grenada, Yalobusha County, Mississippi, he moves with his family - Grenada today is in Grenada County, for Yalobusha County has been divided into two counties as here named. Our home in Grenada was just across the street from my father's youngest brother, George Wesley Ragsdale, he was always known to us children as our "Uncle Dink" and his dear little wife Maria Octavia Berry Ragsdale was known to us as "Aunt Tip" for we had been taught to say this. Grenada has not grown very fast during the sixty years of absence since we resided in that town as the latest census taken - 1920 shows a population of only 3,402 - but I like this size town.

Grenada, Mississippi lives in my memory as very dear indeed for we children, Winfield, Ada, Willie, Walter and I spent many happy days with our cousins George, Mollie, Ella, Julia, Will and Baby Kate. Our little brother Walter was born in Grenada, Mississippi in 1866. When my father moved to Grenada, he was then a poor man, for the War had stripped him of all his property and possessions, except his personal effects which had been safely hidden and his medical books, surgical instruments and medical outfit in general; also some few articles of house furnishings, wearing apparel and some odds and ends of heavy furniture. My father's youngest brother stood for the "Union" - before and during the war for he felt that the North and South should not be divided and so being a "Union man" his property which was largely in realestate, was protected by all yankee soldiers there. Uncle Louis A. Ragsdale and my father stood for the Union, until the war was declared and then they seceded for their sympathies were for the South, when they saw the attitudes of the North toward the South and so they became "Secessionists in order that they might be in a position to help protect the sons of the Confederacy. (I trust that it will be understood, that in making mention of the feelings

and incidents of our Civil War of 1861 - 1865 that I do so without any partial feeling one way or the other as the past is dead and I trust buried forever - with me there is no "North" and "South" for we are one). It would have been better, if all of our people had stood for the Union.

My father's next move with his family was to Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky - this move was made four years after the close of the war. The South at that time was all torn up over the white man's vote being taken from him and given to the negro and in order to subdue him. "The Reconstruction" days were on and with the Carpet-baggers in insulting evidence everywhere, in all of the Southern States.

Before deciding fully to locate in Danville, my father sent for my eldest brother, Winfield Featherston Ragsdale - to come to Kentucky not only for the pleasure of the trip but to help him carry out his plans if he did so decide to locate - this indecision of my father's was due to a very flattering offer made to him to locate in Louisville, Kentucky, and but for a personal reason he would have accepted this offer.

Brother Winfield's visit to Kentucky was in March of 1867 - the worst time of the year to visit Kentucky is the month of March, for during this month the weather is so changeable, that one who is not acclimated cannot resist the sudden changes, climatic - and died of pneumonia April 7, 1869 and was buried at Danville, Ky. My mother, with her other children, Ada, Willie, Walter and I were on a visit to her parents in Carrollton, Mississippi; and there to await my father's return to take us to our new home when all was in readiness for us - it was in the "Boarman House" where we boarded while we lived in Danville, Ky. and my recollections of Mrs. Boarman are that she was a woman that loved cats and hated children(?) It was a sad coming to Ky. for my mother, for she was coming to the place where her idolized son had died and was there buried.

My little brother, Walter Pinkney Ragsdale - age three and a half years - also died of pneumonia at Danville, Kentucky and in the same year that Brother Winfield died - Walter died December 29, 1869. All of these troubles coming so close together were hard to bear. It was in Danville, Kentucky, my brother Wirt Dudley Ragsdale was born - May 4, 1870 - to comfort my mother's heart. The middle name in Wirt Dudley Ragsdale's name, was given him in memory of old Dr. Dudley of Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky who was my father's medical instructor the two years he was a student there.

At Danville my father formed a partnership with Doctor Weiseger, an elderly physician who was at that time one of the local physicians of the town.

He and my father made a specialty in treating paralytic

cases with the "Equalizer" - this was done with cupping or suction instruments, which, when in operation drew the blood into circulation in the arteries and veins and so put life into the body of the patients who had become paralyzed. There were several paralytic cases brought to Danville for this treatment from distant points - one woman from the State of New York - and with very few exceptions, they were all recovered to a normal condition.

About a year and a half after this partnership had been formed, Dr. Weiseger retired from the practice of medicine altogether and sold out his interest in the "Equalizer" to my father, with his good will. There was an urge made by some of those paralytic patients who were from Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky - two of those whose names I can recall, were Mr. Shuck and Mr. Phillips - that my father located now, at Lebanon, for their benefit and also, for it seemed to be at that time a favorable opportunity and so in the fall of 1870 my father proved to be, his last earthly move, for after eighteen years of his life spent in Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky, he passed away Jan.31,1888.

It was here at Lebanon, Ky. that we five children, Ada, Willie, Wirt, Marvin, and I grew to womanhood and manhood. Marvin Hubert Ragsdale was born in Lebanon, Ky., Jan.27,1873. Marvin was named for Bishop Enoch Marvin of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and in his young days gave promise of becoming as good and as smart a man as our beloved Bishop Marvin and we all had hopes of him being some day made "Bishop". - Little Lindsey Wilson was born in Lebanon, Ky. Dec.15,1874 and died of whooping cough, Mar.1875, age three months. Then little Lelia, the last one, and the baby of the family, was born March 11,1878 and died August 7,1878, of cholera infantum, and about this same time we received a telegram, stating that our grandmother, Elizabeth Louis Ragsdale McDonald had died of yellow fever in Grenada, Mississippi, September 7,1878. This yellow fever epidemic was the most ever known in the South and the town of Grenada was almost depopulated during this seige. Uncle Dink with his family, fled to his farm to escape the yellow fever - and so did many others - but his mother refused to leave Grenada and so our grandmother became one of the yellow fever victims. Our grandmother Ragsdale's second marriage was to Rev. McDonald, a Methodist minister who at the time of this marriage belonged to the Mississippi Conference of the State of Mississippi. I do not know the date of our grandmother's marriage - either one. It was in 1880 at Loventhal Academy in Lebanon, Ky. that my sister, Ada and brother Willie graduated with credit to themselves. Ada was chosen as salutatorion on this occasion and the paper she read in the address of welcome, was of the best.

I have this salutatory address of my sister, Ada's and I prize it. After graduation, Ada prepared herself for teaching in the schools as one of the grade teachers; but later taught one year in the same school from which she had

1,1825 in Hardeman County, Tennessee and Charles E. Harris was born July 25,1827 in Hardeman County, Tenn. Rebecca E. Harris died age 3 1/2 years, in Hardeman County, Tenn. August 7,1825. When and where David Harris (the husband and father) died we have no record; but we find our grandmother a widow with two small children - ages 6 and 8 years - at the time of her marriage to our grandfather John McMurry on the date of October 8,1833 and, in Tennessee where he was born. John McMurry was born Oct.18,1810 at Rutherford, Gibson County, Tenn. or in Rutherford Co., Tenn. - these counties are far apart.

He was of Scotch Irish descent and his parents came to Tennessee and located in the supposed western part of the State in about the time of 1760 to 1770 on the west of the Houston River - at that time Tennessee belonged to North Carolina. These facts as here stated, have been gathered from sources reliable and, from memories' store house as supplied by the older generations that have passed on; all of which history, verifies. To our grandparents John and Berinthia McMurry were born five children. Mary Elizabeth McMurry was born Oct. 20,1834, in Gibson County, Tennessee." Mary" was her father's idol. The other children were Malinda Frances McMurry who was born January 5,1837 in Hawood County, Tennessee. William Pinkney McMurry, born Aug.29,1839 in Haywood County, Tennessee. Berinthia Eugenia McMurry born December 23,1841, in Haywood County, Tennessee - some one or two of our relatives have said that all of these children who were born in Haywood County, Tennessee, were born in the town of Brownsville; but since I do not know I give only the copy. Fruzana Ann McMurry was born in Carroll County, Mississippi, June 18,1848. There is a bit of confusion in the records given in the old family Bible, because, it does not distinguish the towns from the counties by name, and so, the only help I can get is from old and new maps being compared. Brownsville, Haywood County, Tennessee is familiarly associated with our grandparent's family, but I am not in a position to state positively in what way this town was connected with them. Also, the town of Murfreesboro in Rutherford County, Tenn. as being much associated with my grandfather McMurry. This bit of information though, might be the means of finding records wanted, if the next generation wish to trace back. The four large and complete maps of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama, which I bought in order to help me locate places refered to in this history, have been a great help to me indeed, for I wish to be accurate in every statement made as to places, names and dates.

Our grandmother Berinthia Malinda Featherston Harris McMurry had two sets of children - the Harris descendants down to the present generation number 48 and the McMurry descendants number 34, making a total of 82 descendants. The eldest of the five McMurry children, Mary Elizabeth, was my own mother. She was somewhere between the age of eight and twelve years when her parents moved to Carroll County,

Mississippi, from Tennessee, to make this their home. Grandfather McMurry was a kind hearted man and generous to a fault; but never allowed no familiarity from anyone. He was a man of strong convictions, and was firm in his stand against all evil; even though he made enemies. In business, he was in town a merchant, a cotton broker, and a farmer - this last occupation was on account of his health. Later however, he sold his farm and moved to a place he had bought which was in the edge of the town of Carrollton, Mississippi. During the Civil War he was chosen as a Colonel of the "Home Guards", and filled his place with credit to himself. His son Lieutenant Billy McMurry of Company K Eleventh Regiment Mississippi Volunteers was wounded in battle by a cannon ball and died later at Richmond, Virginia, May 29, 1864. I have his picture (and all old daguerrotype) taken in his Confederate Uniform; and a small part of a letter Uncle Billy wrote to my mother while he was tenting at Winchester, Virginia, waiting for the next march to battle. The small black finger ring he made out of a button and sent it to me, was made while time hung heavy on his hands, and, as it did on all the boys as they waited for orders to move. All these relics to be prized; both for their history and personal associations. I ask the question, will these be prized by others?

Grandmother Berinthia Malinda Featherston Harris McMurry was a Featherston in form, feature and temperament. She had auburn hair and brown eyes that could snap her disapproval of wrong doings; but she had sound judgement with this. Dr. Lunsford Prentice Yandell, a noted surgeon in his day was a first cousin of my grandmother McMurry. He was made an orphan while young and my great grandfather gave him a home with him and as one of his own family. It has been said, that our cousin Lunsford Prentice Yandell was a selfmade man, but credit is due our great grandfather Charles Featherston who gave his nephew the chances he had. "Uncle Charlie" was more of a father than an uncle to him. Lunsford P. Yandell was born in Tennessee in the year 1805.

He graduated from the school of medicine at the University of Maryland about the year 1826 and returned to Tennessee. Later, he accepted a chair as a professor in chemistry in Transylvania University at Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky; and which was then one of the leading medical schools of the West - this was in the year 1832 - and later in 1837, he accepted a similar chair in the University of Louisville, Kentucky. In 1849 he was given the chair of physiology and pathological anatomy. Dr. Yandell's fame was increased by his lectures which were said to be remarkable for their clearness and instruction.

His son David Yandell was born in Tennessee in 1826 and was graduated from the University of Louisville in 1846. Dr. David Wendell Yandell taught in the University of Louisville and from 1861 to 1866 was a medical director in the Confederate Army. He was "Chief of staff" of "Stonewall"

Jackson and saw that great army general killed - this Civil War claimed many of our best men.

Dr. Lunsford Prentice Yandell's two sons, David Wendell Yandell and Lunsford Prentice (Prentice or Prentis) Yandell jr., also became noted but large credit was due to their father; both as to his ability to instruct them, and his reputation as well, to back them up in all they did. Dr. David Yandell was Dean of one of the Medical Colleges in Louisville. It was some years after the Civil War that another school of medicine was founded in Louisville, Ky. thus making the two schools of medicine. Dr. Lunsford P. Yandell jr., confined himself to local practice but his reputation was well earned and made, as a physician of ability.

It was at the beginning of the Civil War, when there was a break then made in the friendly relations that had existed for many years between the Ragsdale brothers and the Yandell brothers for the Yandell brothers were red hot "Secessionists" while the Ragsdale brothers were more conservative in speech, except, George Wesley Ragsdale who was an out and out "Union" man and said as much. Louis A. Ragsdale and my father William R. Ragsdale wanted the "Union" to stand, but not at the cost of life and sacrifice of property; and so when war was declared, they took this stand solidly for the South. In medical consultations Cousin David and my father always agreed, but otherwise, they disagreed as they had not outgrown their unkind feelings which had been engendered at the beginning of the Civil War.

David Yandell had one child, a daughter, named Maud - his idol. Maud married Dr. Roberts and Yandell Roberts, no other children, was their only son. His is the L. & N. (Louisville and Nashville) R. R. surgeon today, and his home is in Louisville, Jefferson Co., Kentucky where all of this family of the Yandells have lived since 1837.

My mother Mary Elizabeth McMurry Ragsdale was also one of the "Secessionists", and, so were all of our people "Secessionists". She was never "Reconstructed", for when the reconstruction days were on, the "Carpet-baggers" and the "Scalawags" (the scum of the North) from the North who had invaded and infested the South after the Civil War had much to do with keeping up the bitter feelings already harbored in the hearts of all the loyal southerners; for that had not only by hook and crook, took away everything in sight, but they had encouraged the negroes to do the same thing. They also incited the negro men to be insulting to the white women of the South; and so that, was why the Klu Klux Klan was then organized and for the protection of the white women of the South. The Klan of today is a different sort of organization altogether; but they stand yet for the protection of women regardless of of race or color.

Our uncle George Wesley Ragsdale was a "Union" man, but he

had no use for the "Dirty" negroes and so it was largely through his influence with the militia then located in the town of Grenada, Miss. that this class of the negroes were kept under control and in their place. It was when the white man in the South, 4 years after the war, had been disfranchised, and the negro given the right to vote, that my father left the South; for he would not live under any such existing conditions; neither would he permit his children to be brought up there. To Kentucky then, he came with his family, to start a new life. Kentucky had always been noted for it's hospitality; but there was a difference in "Hospitality" and the warm-hearted Southern hospitality which my mother had been used to all of her life, among her own people and kindred; and so this marked a change, as well as the circumstances under which she had left the South, had it's depressing influence upon her mind and spirits. In time, though, she became reconciled to the changed conditions. And also, later, finding friends who, were congenial in spirit, she spent the best years of her life in "Old Kentucky" - 47 years.

It was in Kentucky where her five children grew to womanhood and manhood - two daughters and three sons. Florence, Ada, Willie, Wirt and Marvin - the others having passed on before. Ada Ragsdale was a beautiful young woman who was just as lovely in character and accomplished in music and literature. Her chosen life work was teaching, but death claimed her before her work had hardly begun and at the age of 22 years.

William McMurry Ragsdale after leaving home entered as clerk in a wholesale house of drygoods, but later, made application for a Government position and received the papers to qualify for same. He accepted and has been in the service for many years, and will be retired at the age of 70 years with the proper recognition for faithful service during this period of time - he has yet a few years. He was first appointed in the field of service for the Government as one of it's "Pension Examiners" and then later, was made "Chief Naturalization Examiner" and "District Attorney" with a large force of men under him at his Headquarters in the Federal Building at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. This "District" embraces several States and he has jurisdiction over the entire force of men under him in each of the States. In recent years he has been made "Judge" in all Federal cases which come under his rulings and with their "examinations". He married Corinne Treadwell, April, 27, 1898 and is the father of a son and daughter, Charles and Marcia who are now both married and are living in New York City. He has two little granddaughters who are the children of his daughter, who now is Mrs. George P. Pauley.

Wirt Dudley Ragsdale entered the mercantile business early in life, for he began as one of the "Cash boys" in Phillip Brother's store in Lebanon, Kentucky, during the summer vacation. Later he was employed in the store as a clerk in

and they, a comfort to her in her declining days; as I had been an invalid more or less for some years and a crippled shut in the three years before her death which occurred Sept.10,1916. My mother had been in declining health for years, of a bronchial trouble which became complicated with cardiac asthma during the last years of her life and it was one of these attacks which proved fatal.

"Another soul has winged it's light
From this world of sin and sorrow,
To a brighter home beyond the skies
Where ever beams the morrow."

Florence Ragsdale Graves

Of my father's sister, Martha Ragsdale, who was the eldest child of George and Elizabeth Louis Ragsdale, I have no knowledge of, other, than that she was born in Green Co., Ala. about the year 1817, and that she was married to a Mr. Grandy, a widower - do not know if he had children, and moved to the State of Texas to live - and there, she died. I knew of only one of her children by name, and she was the oldest child. Her name was Roxana and was a favorite with my father, when she was a small child. The other children I knew nothing of, but there was a family of children. My wish to know about my Aunt Martha's is too late to help me out now, for I cannot locate any of them.

(Since mother wrote this she has succeeded in locating Aunt Martha's other children, and wrote about them in a little note book and I will copy it here for you. - Ada)

Louis Ragsdale Gandy, Clarksville, Texas - Route 6, Box 130. This cousin died Jan.13,1931 and now I correspond with his daughter, Golin Parker Ragsdale who was the only sister of my father, Wm R. Ragsdale. Aunt Martha married Richard Ross Gandy in Ala. in 1851. George Wesley Gandy, Heaton, Okla. Box 83 - Wesley is a brother of Louis Ragsdale Gandy of Texas. Richard Ross Gandy lives at Wilson, Okla. Rolin Ross Robertson, 1203 East 75 St., Los Angeles, Calif. is one of 8 children of my 1st cousin, Mrs. Roxana Gandy Robertson. She is the 2nd daughter of Richard Ross Gandy and Aunt Martha Parker Ragsdale Gandy. There five children in this family. Cally who married Boyd Green. Louis married twice. Roxana who married Berry Robertson. Edith who married a Mr. Stewart. George Wesley Gandy who married three times. Do not know them. Cally Gandy Green's children, Henry Green lives in Childress, Texas and Charley B. Green lives in Arlington, Texas, Route 5, Box 100.

(Nov.27,1933 - I just received a Thanksgiving card from one of Cousin Louis Gandy's daughters, Dolin Gandy, saying her aunt Roxana Gandy Robertson died about a year ago. - Ada)

Louis A. Ragsdale was the second child of George and Elizabeth Louis Ragsdale. He was born in Green County Alabama about the year 1819. He was married to Miss Sallie

McElroy who was close by related to the Kentucky family of McElroys. To this union a large family of children were born; and all were born in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, raised there and all died there but two of them.

Ella Ragsdale was the only one of the three cousins, I personally knew; and that was only whom we were children together. This Cousin Ella married a Mr. Coffey and Cameill Coffey was their only child. Both Mr. Coffey and Ella are dead; and as I understand it now. This Cameill is married and lives in New York City. The children of one of Uncle Louis A.'s sons are living in Poughkeepsie, New York - as I have been told. I have, in the biography of my father, William R. Ragsdale, made mention as to the manner of life of Louis A. Ragsdale and of his financial ability above the ordinary for those days. Uncle Louis and his wife lived and died in Meridian, Mississippi.

(Cameille Coffey married Frank A. Berthold, a million heir of the Berthold building 120 Broadway, New York City, N.Y. I correspond with her. - Ada)

Since my cousin, Mrs. Ella Ragsdale Berry has been kind enough to furnish me with the names and addresses of the living descendants of her father, George Wesley Ragsdale, who was my father's youngest brother and, with a bit of history included, of those who have passed on to the great beyond. I will be glad to make a copy of same and insert it with the pages of the history of the Ragsdale family which I have been compiling for the benefit of the present generation. I wish to add a word of my own also, as to this cousin who is the eldest of the living daughters of my uncle, George W. Ragsdale. Mrs. Ella R. Berry is a woman possessed of many charms and, is a woman of remarkable energy, courage and ability. Early in life (1881) she became interested in dermatology and took a course of study in chemistry preparatory for this work. She was a graduate in a School of Chemistry and established herself in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the manufacture of "Berry" and "Beautiola" Toiletries in 1882. Mr. Berry was invalided through a railroad wreck and died in 1900. After her husband's death, Mrs. Berry then moved to St. Louis, the commercial center of the United States of America and she is still the sole owner of the business that has made the "Ella R. Berry" and "Beautiola" Toiletries nationally known products. Mrs. Berry's father - late in life - also became interested in dermatology and was classed as a "Skin Specialist", and as one who has earned made reputation.

George Wesley Ragsdale, M. D. was born in Ballington - the name of this town has been changed - Green County, Alabama, about the year 1823 or 1824 and grew to manhood in Alabama. He was married to Miss Maria Octavia Berry in 1850 at Grenada, Miss. (She was the daughter of James W. and M. Vaiden Berry, of Richmond, Virginia and was born in 1832;

Birth and Death of

Father:

David N. Harris

David N. Harris died in
Tennessee.

Mother:

Berinthia Malinda Featherston
was the child of Charles and
---- Featherston and was born
in Prince Edward Co., Va. on
the date of May 15, 1862.
Berinthia Malinda Featherston
Harris was the widow of John
McMurry, when she died at
Carrollton, Carroll Co.,
Miss., January 15, 1887.

Marriage of Father and Mother:

Berinthia Malinda Featherston
to
David N. Harris
About 1821 in Tennessee.

Children:

Rebecca E. Harris:

b February 28, 1822 Rutherford Co. or Rutherford, Gibson
Co., Tenn.
m ----
d Hardeman Co., Tenn. Aug. 7, 1825

Lucy Jane Harris: (mother of 9 children)

b February 1, 1825 Hardeman Co., Tenn.
m Oct. 28, 1841 to James B. Harper in Carrollton, Carroll
Co., Miss.
d April 28, 1885 Carrollton, Carroll Co., Miss.

Charles E. Harris: (father of two children)

b July 15, 1827 Hardeman Co.
m Nov. 20, 1851 to Jane Berry in Grenada, Miss. She died
there 1852.
1853 after death of Jane, Charles married Mollie
McDonald.
After death of Charles, Mollie married Major Lane of
Memphis, Tenn. Mollie died 1903, Major died April 1, 1910.
d July 15, 1855 in Tippah Co., Miss.

Birth and Death of

Father:

John McMurry was the child
of -----
and was born in Rutherford,
Gibson, Co., Tenn., Oct.18,
1810. John McMurry died in
Carrollton, Carroll County,
Miss. Feb.27,1884.

Mother:

Berinthia Malinda Featherston
Harris was the -- child of
Charles Featherston and was
born in Prince Edwards
County, Virginia May 15,1802.
Berinthia M. F. Harris
McMurry died in Carrollton,
Carroll, County, Miss.
Jan.15,1887.

Marriage of Father and Mother:

Berinthia Maninda Featherston
to
John McMurry
Oct.8,1833 in Tennessee

Children:

Mary Elizabeth McMurry:

b Oct.20,1834 Gibson Co., Tenn.
m Nov.19,1850 to Dr. William Riley Ragsdale in
Carrollton, Carroll Co., Miss.
d Sept.10,1916 Simpsonville, Shelby Co., Ky.

Malinda Frances McMurry:

b Jan.5,1837 Haywood Co., Tenn.
m ----
d Aug.16,1894 Carrollton, Carroll Co., Miss.

William Pinkney McMurry:

b Aug.27,1839 Haywood Co., Tenn.
m ----
d May 29,1864 Richmond, Va. (wounded in Civil War battle)

Berinthia Eugenia McMurry:

b Dec.23,1841 Haywood Co., Tenn.
m Jan.22,1889 to Walter Pinkney Hughes in
Carrollton, Carroll Co., Miss.
d July 5,1903 Carrollton, Carroll Co., Miss.

Fruzana Ann McMurry:

b June 18,1848 Carroll Co., Miss.
m ----
d Feb.4,1884 Carrollton, Carroll Co., Miss.

Marvin Herbert Ragsdale:

b Jan.27,1873 Lebanon, Marion Co., Ky

m Jan.2,1898 to Frances Pauline Thigpen at
Hazelhurst, Capiah Co., Miss.

d ----

Lindsey Wilson Ragsdale:

b Dec.15,1874 Lebanon, Marion Co., Ky.

m ----

d March 18,1875 Lebanon, Marion Co., Ky.

Lelia Ragsdale:

b March 11,1878 Lebanon, Marion Co., Ky.

m ----

d Aug.7,1878 Lebanon, Marion Co., Ky.

Birth and Death of

Father:

William Lindsey Graves,
3rd child of William and
Margaret Anna Graves, was
born near Simpsonville,
Shelby Co., Ky. Nov.12,1855
and died there Feb.16,1931.

Mother:

Florence Ragsdale, 4th child
of Dr. William Riley Ragsdale
and Mary Elizabeth McMurry
Ragsdale was born in
Lexington, Holmes Co., Miss.,
Oct.28,1858 and died near
Simpsonville, Shelby Co., Ky.
April 25,1932, buried there.

Marriage of Father and Mother

Florence Ragsdale

to

William Lindsey Graves

Nov.16,1886 in Lebanon, Marion Co., Ky.

Children:

Lindsey Ragsdale Graves:

b Dec.3,1887 near Simpsonville, Graves Co., Ky.

m ----

d Dec.27,1887 near Simpsonville, Shelby Co., Ky.

Ada Ragsdale Graves:

b July 10,1889 near Simpsonville, Shelby Co., Ky.

m ----

d March 9,1969 near Simpsonville, Shelby Co., Ky.

Owen McMurry Graves:

b Dec.5,1893 near Simpsonville, Shelby Co., Ky.

m ----

d ----

Birth and Death of

Father:

William Irvin Fox, 3rd
child (2nd living child)
Montgomery Irvin and Annie
Elizabeth Baughman Fox was
born at Danville, Ky.,
July 27, 1899.

Mother:

Florence Ragsdale, 4th
child of Mary Reaser
Claybrooke Ragsdale was born
at San Antonio, Texas, April
22, 1901. Florence Ragsdale
Fox died in Danville, Boyle
Co., Ky., after child birth.

Marriage of Father and Mother

Florence Ragsdale

to

William Irvin Fox
Dec. 26, 1925 in Lexington, Fayette
Co., Ky.

Children:

William Irvin Fox jr.
b March 23, 1935 Danville, Ky.
m ----
d ----